

# Memorandum

*Serious drought.  
Help Save Water!*

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Subject: **NEW MEMO TO DESIGNERS 5-5 "DESIGN CRITERIA OF STANDARD EARTH RETAINING SYSTEMS"**

This new *Memo to Designers 5-5* (MTD 5-5) "Design Criteria of Standard Earth Retaining Systems" documents material parameters and assumptions made in the development of the standard earth retaining systems (ERS) found in the 2010 *Standard Plans*, 2010 Revised Standard Plans and the most recent Bridge Design Detail Sheets (XS). To comply with the FHWA mandate for designing ERS using load and resistance factor design (LRFD) methodology by October 2010, all of the standard ERS were designed to the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2007) and the corresponding California Amendments.

MTD 5-5 and these standards will remain in effect for use, after Caltrans adopts the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, 2012 (6<sup>th</sup> edition) with CA Amendments (AASHTO-CA BDS-6)* and the 2015 (Caltrans) *Standard Plans and Standard Specifications*. As time and resources permit, updates may be done for *AASHTO-CA BDS-6*.

Users of these standards should be aware that projects often possess conditions that are in conflict with the design parameters and assumptions employed in the standard ERS. Special design should be carried out under these circumstances.

Any inquiry regarding and interpretation of MTD 5-5 should be addressed to Kathryn Griswell, the chair of the Earth Retaining Systems Committee, at 916-227-7330.

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